In addition to above, the Government of NCT Delhi has started 'Jal Bhagidari' scheme in December, 2002 to promote rain water harvesting for augmentation of ground water recharge under which financial assistance to the extent of Rs.50,000/- or 50% of the cost of the project is being given to registered RWAs/Co-operative Group Housing Societies/Schools/ Educational Institutions and NGO buildings. They have so far approved financial assistance to 128 projects out of which assistance to 90 projects have already been released.

Lift irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh

1611. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants are being given by Government to the States for lift irrigation schemes run by marginal farmers and farming groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided to the State Governments during the last three years, State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the details of amount sanctioned for lift irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years; and

(d) the details of the status of implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) There is no specific scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources for providing grants for lift irrigation schemes run by marginal farmers and farming groups. However, grants to the State Governments are considered for completion of minor irrigation schemes as per the approved guidelines under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Availability of water for agricultural production

†1612. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agricultural production rate has been decreased in many States in the country due to shortage of water availability;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.